BEBERGAL HAS 'TOO MUCH TO DREAM'
BOOKS {page 09}

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Sandusky to face accusers in court

Alleged victims will be at preliminary hearing today in first glimpse at strategy of prosecutors, former Penn State coach's defense ◗ His attorney says no plea deal for Sandusky ◗ Legal experts split over likelihood of trial in coming months {page 04}

RICARD LABMA/METRO

Flower show. Theme

▶ Models brought a Hawaiian flare to the Comcast Center yesterday, helping announce the Philadelphia International Flower Show's 2012 theme.

If the first promotion for the annual attraction that brings more than 1 million visitors to Center City each March is a sign of things to come, it's going to be the hottest show ever. Hula dancers represented the theme, "Hawaii: Islands of Aloha." Organizers for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society tout it as "not your grandmother's Flower Show, though she'll love it, too." {page 02}

News

Support for Iraq after withdrawal

◗ Obama vows to be strong partner as Syria instability, Iran influence loom over Iraq
◗ Troops out by Dec. 31 {page 06}

Hulk can't believe his ears

Hogan says he will fight the rumors his ex-wife is spreading ... in court {page 07}

Moral Victory Tour rolls on ...

Don't read too much into Birds' meaningless win {Cataldi, page 19}

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Flower Show to bloom for new crowds

The oldest and largest indoor flower show in the world is seeking to grow into the 21st century with a Hawaiian theme, a smartphone app and digital graphics incorporated into themed floral exhibits.

"This is not your grandmother's Flower Show," a release from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society said yesterday of the 2012 Philadelphia International Flower Show, which held a preview at the Comcast Center.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Aloha, Flower Show.

"Whether you're a Show veteran or a first-timer, you've never seen a Flower Show like this," said PHS President Drew Becher.

The Show will be working with the Hawaii Tourism Authority to showcase native plants and crafts, floral volcanoes, surf shacks, lei-making demonstrations and hula and fire dancing performances.

Aimed at attracting younger people, it will also include a "man cave" and themed nights, including LGBT Night, Wedding Wednesday and Girls' Night Out. The Show will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center from March 4-11. ALEX WIGGLESWORTH

NoLibs hotshots take on East Falls

Onion Flats, known for eye-catching projects, get ambitious with empty Rivage site Apartment complex plan will be 'zero-net energy'

Northern Liberties-based developer Onion Flats is known for bold design with sharp corners and cutting-edge materials. The company hopes that translates to its biggest project, the Ridge, on Kelly Drive and Ridge Avenue.

The firm was chosen last week to develop the Rivage site after years of stalled projects there, thanks in part to large community support. The plan for 126 residential apartments over first-floor retail will be zero-net energy — meaning energy for the utilities would be generated on site.

"For us, this is an important project in a lot of ways," said Tim McDonald, president of the development/design/construction firm known for the Rag Flats and Thin Flats. "The one really important dimension is [that] what we're trying to do is demonstrate this can be the standard way of designing and building for all buildings."

Considered the gateway to East Falls at the foot of the Falls Bridge, the project will feature outdoor gardens and a public terrace to entice pedestrians. McDonald said construction could start in early 2013 and be completed in early 2014 with an estimated cost of $25 million.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ A bus yesterday passed the vacant Rivage site, which would be transformed into what a rendering by Onion Flats shows (insert).

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SOLOMON D. LEACH
sleach@metro.us

'Wow' factor for Rivage

Residents are eager for the development, which many rated "cool."

"We thought it was a strong proposal, and it has its added 'wow' factor to it," said Gina Snyder,

executive director of the East Falls Development Corp. "It's an exciting project."

▶ Nutter

Benefits for life partners

CITY HALL. Mayor Michael Nutter signed a bill yesterday that requires large city contractors to offer equal benefits to life partners of their employees as they would to married spouses.

The bill requires firms with contracts of $250,000 or more to extend their benefits.

METRO

'Doozy addict' busted

DELAWARE COUNTY. A Clifton Heights woman is charged with allegedly stuffing items into a backpack behind her 3-year-old daughter's stroller at an Upper Darby Home Depot.

"We've been seeing more and more often, where these young ladies are doozy heroin addicts using babies as roosters to do their stealing," Upper Darby police Superintendent Mike Chitwood said. "It's really sad."

METRO/AW

In the news

Losing our religion?

An Islamic group and interfaith leaders will hold a news conference tomorrow to oppose proposed legislation by Pennsylvania lawmakers that would ban courts from considering any "foreign legal code or system" that does not grant the same rights as federal or state constitutions.

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Big first hearing in court for Sandusky

▶ Preliminary hearing today in Centre County expected to be momentous in lead-up to potential trial ▶ Legal observers split on both sides' strategies

Pennsylvania prosecutors are set to present much of their case against former Penn State coach Jerry Sandusky today when he appears at a preliminary hearing near State College.

Some or all of Sandusky's accusers will testify at the hearing, according to lawyers in the case. Sandusky's attorney yesterday denied that a plea deal will be accepted.

Wes Oliver, an associate law professor at Widener Law School, said Sandusky's best chance is to cast enough doubt on enough witnesses to force the prosecution to consider a deal.

"They're posturing right now that they're preparing for trial, but my guess is that they're looking for a plea," Oliver said.

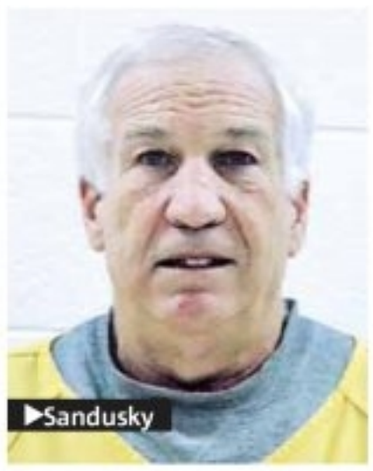
But a former Philadelphia prosecutor believes Sandusky might as well contest the charges because his age puts him in a position where any deal would amount to a life sentence.

"What has he got to lose?" defense attorney Jack McMahon, who spent 12 years in the district attorney's office, said. "To me it takes a lot of choices out of it." BLOOMBERG

'Get a shot'

▶ **Sandusky's lawyer** will probably use the hearing as his first chance to "get a shot at" victims and find holes in their stories, said Tariq El-Shabazz, a Philadelphia defense attorney.

▶ **"Defense attorneys** use this to poke holes, to find out if you have eight victims giving a similar story because they were prompted by the same detective," El-Shabazz said. "You get situations where people are mimicking what the sex crimes officers are asking them."


▶ Sandusky

▶ **Sandusky's lawyer** could also use the hearing to get early discovery, or evidence, on each victim.

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MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR
2011

Dozens of votes were cast for Steve Jobs and the Occupy movement on the first day of voting in Metro's Person of the Year event. We're moving away from Man and Woman of the year and now calling it Person of the Year, because groups were nominated as well as individuals. Jobs and Occupy are just about neck and neck, with Congresswoman Gabby Giffords trailing in third place.

To vote: Send your pick to **mwoty@metro.us**. The choices are Steve Jobs, the Occupy movement, or Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

Obama: US will stay loyal partner for Iraq

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ U.S. Army Sergeant Matt Benn plays darts with other soldiers as they wait in Kuwait for their flight home from Iraq.

Troops make their way out as end-of-year pullout approaches

President Barack Obama yesterday pledged that Washington would remain a strong partner for Iraq as U.S. troops exit by year-end, and played down the risk this departure creates a power vacuum Iran can exploit.

The withdrawal of almost all U.S. troops from Iraq by Dec. 31 has created uncertainty at a time the region remains roiled by the Arab Spring, and amid fear Syrian instability could spread sectarian strife into neighboring Iraq.

But Obama told a press conference with Iraqi President Nuri al-Maliki Washington remains a strong Middle East presence.

"As we end this war and as Iraq faces its future, the Iraqi people must know that you will not stand alone. You have a strong and enduring partner in the United States of America."

Fulfilling a vow to Americans weary of the nearly 9-year-old war as he campaigns for re-election in 2012, Obama's order for the troops to leave came after a deal to keep thousands of U.S. trainers on the ground failed on the issue of immunity from prosecution in Iraq.

REUTERS

Dear Iran, we'd like our drone back

President Barack Obama yesterday said the U.S. government had requested the return of a spy drone downed over Iran but declined to discuss if its loss could compromise U.S. national security.

"We have asked for it back. We'll see how the Iranians respond," Obama said during a joint news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki after the two met at the White House. REUTERS

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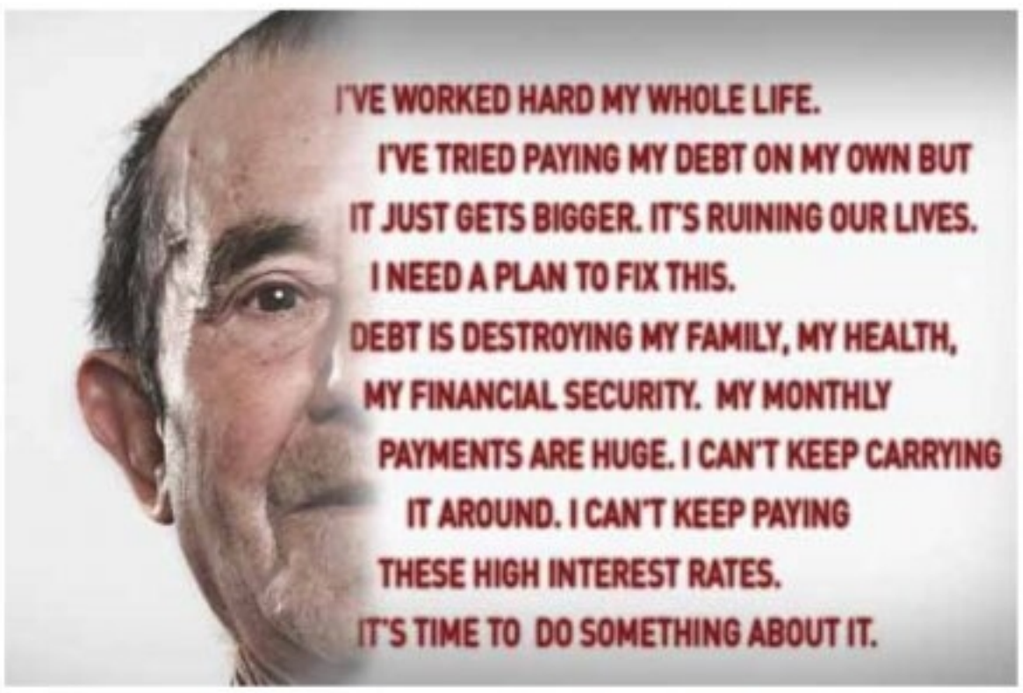
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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Hulk Hogan is not a homosexual, OK?

Hulk Hogan, who filed a defamation suit against ex-wife **Linda Bollea**, says he's just trying to defend his reputation. "After the four-year crazy divorce I thought I'd heard everything I could hear in the courtroom," the former wrestling star tells Us Weekly. "Then all of a sudden she says I abused her, that I was violent. She told everybody that I was a homosexual." Hogan adds that his real problem with Bollea's accusations is that they aren't accurate. "If any of that was true, I would admit it, and, [if] I was a homosexual, I would embrace it," he says. "If you're going to say I'm something that I'm not to try to ruin my career and my livelihood, I have to answer her back."

▶ Hulk Hogan. Not gay.

GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"[If] I was a homosexual, I would embrace it."
HOGAN

Look, Linda. Just because at one point in his life, your ex-husband had a huge boa scarf collection and loved Spandex, tan skin, rippling muscles, ripping his shirt off at the drop of a hat and pinning sweaty men to the ground, does not mean he was in the closet while you were married. If it were someone else's husband, however, I'd be a tad worried.

A theft-filled weekend for Lohan

Lindsay Lohan had a drama-filled weekend, and not just because of her leaked Playboy spread. While partying in Hawaii, the troubled starlet reportedly had her purse stolen, according to TMZ. The $5,000 Chanel handbag, which was snatched from a parked car, was said to contain $10,000 in cash. The purse was later returned, minus the cash. Lohan was reportedly fretting another probation violation, as her passport and court documents allowing her to travel were also in the purse but were returned safely.

Which leads me to a very pressing, unrelated question: Do drug dealers accept traveler's checks?

Talking points

Kutcher's resolutions are set

Ashton Kutcher is looking to get a jump on his New Year's resolutions, and given the year he's had, it's not such a surprise. "I'm gonna do my resolution in December this year," he says in a Warner Bros. Studio interview. "I'm resoluting for December so that when I come to January, and everybody else is having to go through the grind, I'm already ahead of it, I've already done it. It's like taking the PSATs. I'm just trying to stay ahead of the curve. There is a curve."

Federline's 'Excess Baggage'

Kevin Federline was hospitalized in Australia recently while filming "Excess Baggage," a weight-loss reality TV show, according to E! Online. "Our first shoot was in November in the Kimberley region in Outback Western Australia," a spokesman for the show says. "During the shoot, under advice from the show's medic, Kevin was taken to hospital as he was showing signs of heat stress." The former backup dancer is said to be doing fine and already back for more filming in the area.

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

Jones is not fond of marriage

Rashida Jones won't be looking to tie the knot anytime soon, if her feelings about marriage are any indication. "I totally believe in romance and love and all that, but the actual institution of marriage — in this country, more than half the people get divorced. So, something's not working," she tells People magazine. "I'm not saying it doesn't work for everybody. I love going to weddings."

O'Donnell splurges on engagement ring

Rosie O'Donnell pulled out all the stops when she popped the question to fiancee Michelle Rounds recently. "I proposed with my head down, hand out and a huge lump in my throat," she tells Us Weekly of the big moment, during which she presented Rounds with a $100,000 diamond and platinum ring. But even though it was love at first sight for O'Donnell, she did her best to play it cool. "I knew about a week after we met, but I did the smart thing and didn't propose right away," she says. "You know, I'm at the age where I just knew."

2

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

John Cleese is doing a lot of interviews, Russell Crowe is enjoying his workout, Sarah Silverman is deciphering animal thinking and Julie Benz wants some Christmas cheer.

▶ **@JohnCleese:** Nearly the end of another gruelling week of talking about myself. It's a good job that I'm so interesting...

▶ **@russellcrowe:** 90 sweaty minutes in the gym. Some days you love it,some you hate it. Today was all love.

▶ **@SarahK Silverman:** My dog has to think the elevator's a time machine, right? There's no other possible explanation.

▶ **@juliebenz:** whenever someone says "we're only giving gifts to the kids this holiday season" my inner child screams "NO! I want presents too!!"

myentertainment

Obama is a Belieber — and other topics

1. President Barack Obama and Justin Bieber shook hands onstage during the "Christmas in Washington 2011" show at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., on Sunday.

2. Miley Cyrus attended the "CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute" at The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, Calif., on Sunday.

3. Jamie Bell, who provided the voice for the titular character Tintin, attended the New York premiere of "The Adventures of Tintin" at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York City on Sunday. The motion-capture 3-D film will be released on Dec. 21.

4. Hilary Swank attended the Broadway opening night of "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever" at the St. James Theatre in New York City on Sunday.

5. Taylor Swift looked nothing less than a princess as she received the prestigious Nashville Harmony Award in a Reem Acra ball gown at the annual Nashville Symphony Ball in Nashville, Tenn., on Saturday.

1: LARRY BUSACCA/WIREIMAGE
2: FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES
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mybooks

When dreams become nightmares

In new book, Peter Bebergal recalls his coming-of-age via psychedelics and the underground It's a trip with psychonauts, punks and freaks

"I had glimpsed the sun behind the moon in the middle of the night and its rays had filled me with hope," writes author Peter Bebergal, describing his first experience with marijuana in his memoir, "Too Much to Dream: A Psychedelic American Boyhood." Like many a lonely, geeky suburban kid growing up in the '70s, Bebergal began his adolescence as a devotee of comic books, Tolkien and D&D, but he grew restless.

"It could no longer contain a deeper spiritual need I had," he says. "I wanted to experience real magic."

For the counterculture of his era, still awash in the wide-eyed but nervous afterglow of the '60s, that meant three things above all: Turning on, tuning in and dropping out.

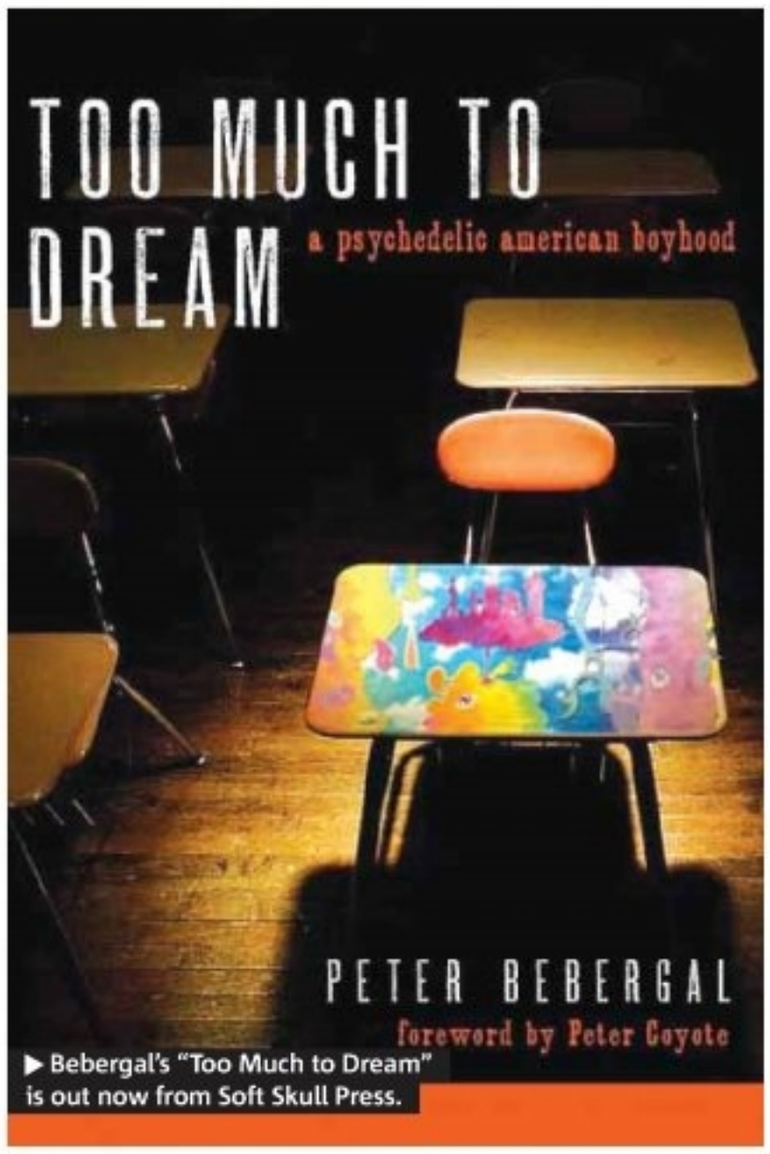
From that initial experience with cannabis, Bebergal embarks upon a whirlwind coming-of-age journey, consorting with homeless acid-heads, occult-obsessed mall security guards, desperate hardcore punkers and other fringe dwellers. He delves into underground comics, psychedelic rock, Western cermonial magic and lots and lots of tripping. Along the way, Bebergal presents a primer on the psychedelic era, discussing in extended non-memoir passages the history of LSD, the I-Ching, the Silver Surfer, Pink Floyd and more, portraying from myriad angles his generation's quest for, in his words, "something else, some abstract more — always undefined, but always there on the periphery and as unattainable as a horizon."

MATTHEW DINARO
letters@metro.us

Diving back in

We wondered if reliving some of the traumatic experiences described in "Too Much to Dream" was a harrowing experience for Peter Bebergal, who has been sober for two decades, but he says it actually helped bring them into context.

"I learned two things: Compassion for my teenage self and an understanding that no life exists in a vacuum, that so much of our expectations and sense of self is shaped by powerful cultural influences."



▶ Bebergal's "Too Much to Dream" is out now from Soft Skull Press.

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Woolrich has been producing outdoor apparel since 1830, and they've been selling this workhorse button-down for lumberjacks and desk jockeys alike for more than 150 years. **Woolrich Men's Wool Original Buffalo Check Shirt, $109,** www.woolrich.com

"Might as well have the best" is the Filson motto, and they're not kidding. The Seattle-based company has been crafting a version of these nearly indestructible pants for the everyman since 1914. **Men's Filson Oil Finish Single Tin Pants, $140,** www.filson.com

Carhartt is a name synonymous with getting work done — and she can take on anything in this flannel-lined chore coat, a direct descendent of the outerwear that helped establish the brand in 1889. **Women's Carhartt Chore Coat, $84,** www.carhartt.com

L.L. Bean, founded in 1912, boasts a "guaranteed to last" warranty on its goods. This sweater, originally sold by the company in 1980, can back that up in both construction and style. **Men's Matinicus Rock Cardigan, $129,** www.llbean.com

The Maine Hunting Shoe was L.L. Bean's first product. Since 1912, these rugged, go-anywhere boots have become an American icon — and in waxed canvas, they can rightfully be called practical and pretty. **16-inch Waxed Canvas Maine Hunting Shoe, $199,** www.llbean.com

Two legends of Northwest style — Pendleton Woolen Mills (est. 1909) and Eddie Bauer (est. 1920) — collaborate for this wallet inspired by archival pieces worn and used by founder Eddie and his wife Stine. **Pendleton for Eddie Bauer Wallet, $79.95,** www.eddiebauer.com

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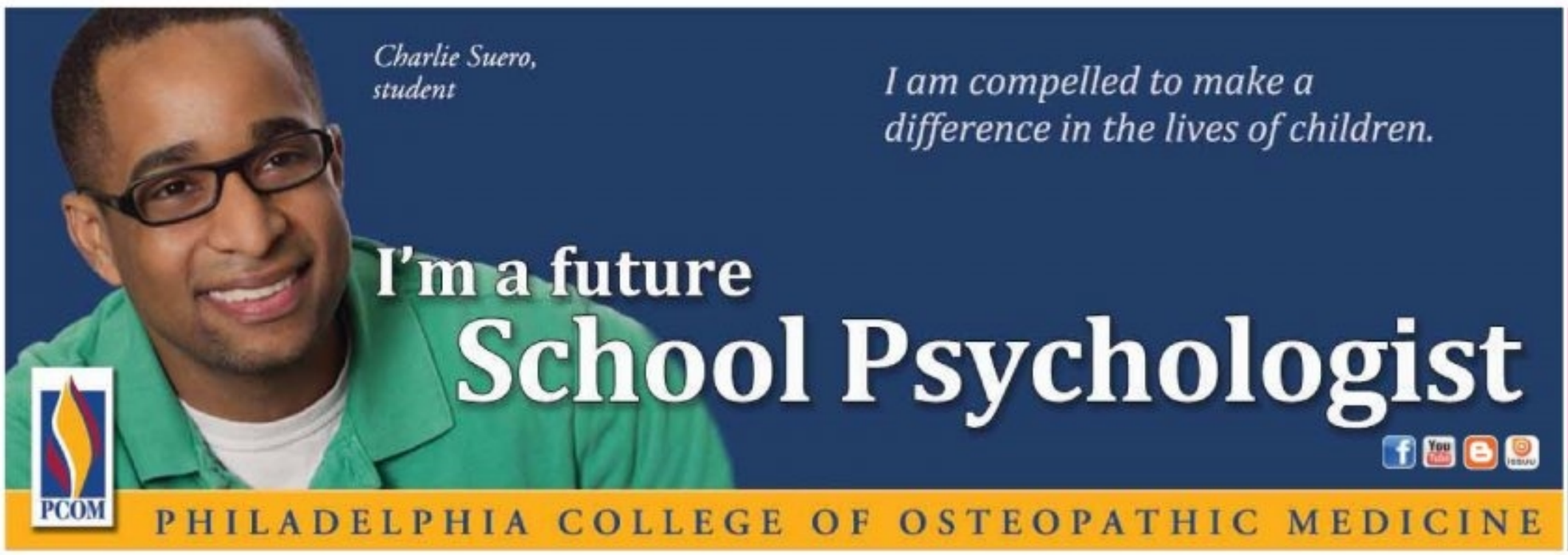

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TV watch list

‘Glee’

COMEDY. If you don’t believe that this could be the best Christmas-themed episode of the holiday season, then you obviously haven’t heard that the New Directions crew is paying homage to the greatest holiday special of all time: “The Star Wars Holiday Special.” Chewbacca even guest stars tonight! **8 p.m., Fox**

‘William & Kate: Inside the Royal Marriage’

SPECIAL. Fascinating stuff about the royals in this special hosted by Natalie Morales — unless, of course, you’ve picked up a tabloid in the last six months and already read it all. **8 p.m., NBC**

ADAM ROSE/FOX

▶ From left: Tina (Jenna Ushkowitz), Rachel (Lea Michele) and Quinn (Dianna Agron) celebrate the holidays on “Glee.”

‘2011 CMT Artists of the Year’

SPECIAL. Another country music fete — this one hosted by Rob Lowe — honors the year’s five most influential artists in the genre: Jason Aldean, Kenny Chesney, Lady Antebellum, Brad Paisley and Taylor Swift. **9 p.m., CMT**

‘Good Morning, Killer’

MOVIE. A kidnapper preys on aspiring models in this adaptation of the April Smith novel, starring Catherine Bell as an FBI agent on the case. Note to Tyra Banks and company: No matter how intriguing it sounds, “crime scene chic” is not a good challenge idea for next season’s “America’s Next Top Model.” **9 p.m., TNT**

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70% of Metro readers have taken a domestic air round trip in the past year.

Source: Scarborough R2 2010, Base: 250K+

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Products

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Adoption concern

Nearly all internationally adopted children are from countries with a medium to high rate of hepatitis A infection, according to a recent policy statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The virus is highly contagious; but because most infected kids show no symptoms, it's important to take precautions if you're planning to adopt. The AAP advises that all unvaccinated family members, as well as anyone who will be in close contact with your child during the first two months of his arrival, receive a hepatitis A immunization at least two weeks before you bring him home.

RACHEL MORRIS FOR **Parents**

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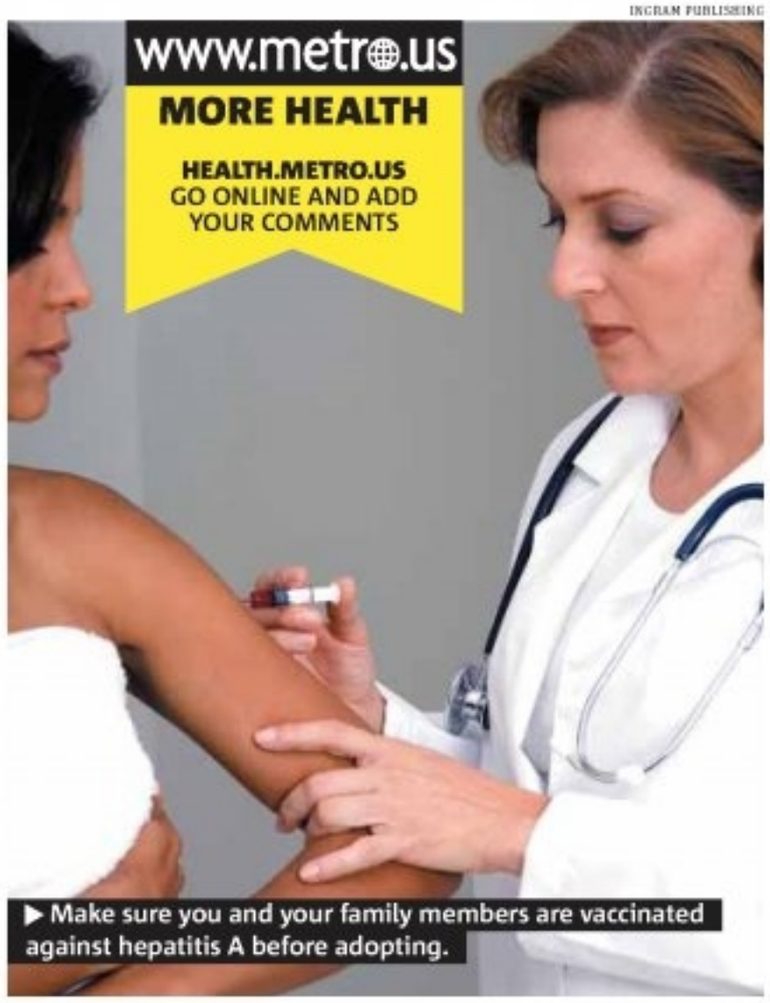

▶ Make sure you and your family members are vaccinated against hepatitis A before adopting.

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Worst toys of 2011

The Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood awards an annual TOADY — Toys Oppressive And Destructive to Young Children — Award for the worst toy of the year. Behold this year's winner, the Vinci Touchscreen Mobile Learning Tablet, and the other finalists.

1. Vinci Touchscreen Mobile Learning Tablet
$479 (Ages 4 and under)
What: The first "iPad" designed for babies
There's no evidence that any screen media is educational for babies. This toy could train babies to depend on electronic media for stimulation or soothing and deprive them of creative play. Plus, it's ridiculously expensive.

2. I Am T-Pain Mic
$39.99 (Ages 7+)
What: An autotune microphone that transforms your child into a rapper
This introduces and reinforces kids' attachment to a performer whose songs are horribly misogynistic. Google "Take Your Shirt Off" — the lyrics are inappropriate for children, and this toy pushes the performer's brand on very young children.

3. Monopoly Coca-Cola 125th Anniversary Collector's Edition
$39.99 (Ages 8-10)
What: A Coca-Cola branded Monopoly game
A very cynical use of a beloved board game to sell Coca-Cola when childhood obesity is a major problem.

4. Monster High Ghoul Spirit Fearleading Doll 3-Pack
$42.99 (Ages 6+)
What: Skinny dolls wearing provocative outfits
Parents pass their values on to our kids through toys and stories we tell them. When we give them skinny cheerleader dolls, we're telling them what girls should look like.

5. WWE Colossal Crashdown Arena
$38.99 (Ages 6+)
What: A replica wrestling arena
The WWE has for a long time marketed violence, verbal bullying and overt sexualization.

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myletters&games

Letters

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People of the year confusion?

RE: "MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR": Metro is asking readers to choose a person of the year between Steve Jobs, the Occupy protestors and Gabrielle Giffords. What, exactly, do people who are exceptionally bright have to do with people who stand up against the criminal abuse of capitalism have to do with people who advocate guns and then are victims of it? Nothing, absolutely nothing. But then again President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize — so anything goes, as they say.
SUZY SANDOR, VIA E-MAIL

Celeb news is the new news

RE: "FROM LAUER TO SEACREST": I stopped watching the Today Show more than a year ago. Even though I know it's not real news, that show used to be more about news than Entertainment Tonight. Now it seems the Today Show is the morning version of celebrity TV shows. So since that's the move they're heading toward, why not get a Hollywooder like Ryan Seacrest. The Today Show is now 90 percent fluff and maybe 10 percent news. Ryan fits right in.
CYNTHIA KING, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

It's OK to say: Merry Xmas

I am so tired of everyone omitting Christmas and substituting it with holiday. Why is it so politically incorrect to say "Merry Christmas" when it's quite fine to say "Happy Hanukkah"? We don't call the menorah a holiday candle — why should the Christmas tree be called a holiday tree? Why does everything that's related to Christmas have to be holiday? There is no reason; Christians honor Christ at Christmastime and decorate to celebrate. No one is taking away Kwanza and Hanukkah. I sure don't want to, and I respect these religious days. Others should respect Christians and let us have our Christmas!
JACQUIE HANNIGAN, PHILADELPHIA

Listening is communication

RE: "WHAT GOOD COMMUNICATION REALLY MEANS": Monica Weymouth's piece hits the nail squarely. Communication is more than memos on bulletin boards. As I constantly remind my classes, communication is a two-way street — with listening a crucial segment. Much of my time as a PR professional was spent counseling senior management on this non-negotiable point. Fortunately, most listened. Those who didn't learned.
KIRK HAZLETT, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** An ambitious objective isn't apt to be fulfilled, because it's likely that you'll only be willing to wish for what you want but not eager to work for it.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If you hear about something that sounds wonderful but requires a large outlay of cash, don't jump in without first checking out its bona fides. Naivete could cost a bundle.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Someone on whom you're counting for help concluding a very complicated matter might let you down. You could be in trouble unless you have a backup plan ready, just in case.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** A job you've been putting off for quite some time might become a thorn in your side. Don't waste any more time making excuses -- get down to business as promptly as possible.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Wanting things and being able to afford them are two entirely different matters. Don't let your extravagant whims overwhelm your common sense.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Some of your objectives aren't likely to be achieved, because it isn't likely that you'll get organized enough to do what it takes to realize your aims.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Be very careful of what you voice about others, even those who may deserve being put in his or her place. Unfortunately, what you say and how you say it could make you look bad.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If being friends with someone is predicated purely upon what they can do for you, the relationship is likely to fall flat. It might be wise to examine your reasons for this behavior.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** It wouldn't be smart to get into a finger-pointing contest with an associate at work, because there is no way it will make either of you smell nice. The bad odor could even affect your career.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** It doesn't matter if it happens at work or in a social setting, arguing political intrigues is likely to cause you some problems. Don't be jockeyed into feeling you must participate.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** The change that you've been fervidly awaiting might happen at last; but once it does, you could wonder why it was something you thought you wanted.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Before you lash out about some unflattering things being said about you, perhaps it might be wise to check it out first. What is told to you may have no basis in fact. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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1 Implied but unsaid
6 Moves gingerly
11 Like stupid!
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15 Demoted from planet
16 Tpk.
17 Red Sea peninsula
18 Make the rounds
20 Felt boot
21 Debatable
23 Bounded along
24 Moon track
26 White-water enthusiasts
28 Bring to mind
30 Sartre contemporary
31 Shocking
32 Matterhorn echo
33 Holiday cheer
36 Manitoba tribe
37 Praline nut
38 Icicle site
39 Down for the count
40 Hue
41 Atlas was one
42 Longtime Dolphins coach
43 Crape __
44 Warms over
47 Delhi coin
48 Wildlife staple
49 Calf-length
50 P.O. service
53 Just fine
56 Look happy
58 Yale alumnus
59 Geologic period
60 Operatic voice
61 Some, to Pierre
62 "__ Schoen"
63 More prudent

Down
1 Cough syrup meas.
2 Pavarotti piece
3 Devised
4 Give __ __ try
5 Sewing kit item
6 Disney site
7 Quit flying
8 California's Big __
9 Handy abbr.
10 Expressive
11 Arrange gracefully
12 Unmitigated
13 Minds
19 Oodles
22 Sunflower yield
25 Red on the inside
26 Speed gun
27 Famous last word
28 Gibraltar landmark
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35 Chromosome unit
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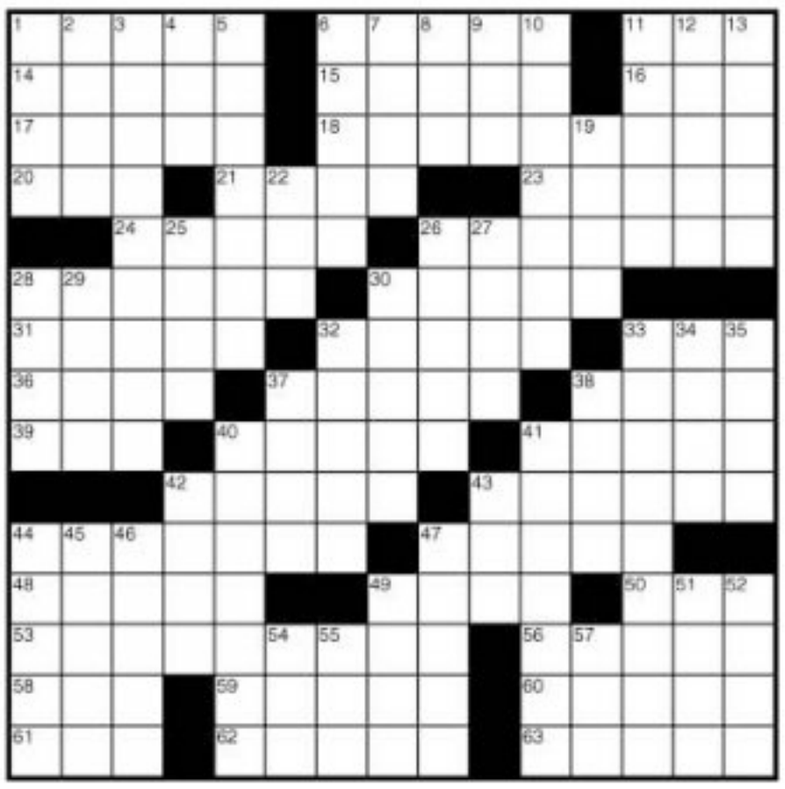
40 Took the risk
41 Underwood pounders
42 Inoculants
43 Beauty pack
44 Entered a 10K
45 Quebec school
46 Pueblo people
47 Nouveau __
49 __ Jagger of the Stones
51 Polar bear perch
52 Earl __ Biggers
54 PCB regulator
55 Freight unit
57 Drop __ __ line



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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8			5					
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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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education guide

What is the cost of more education?

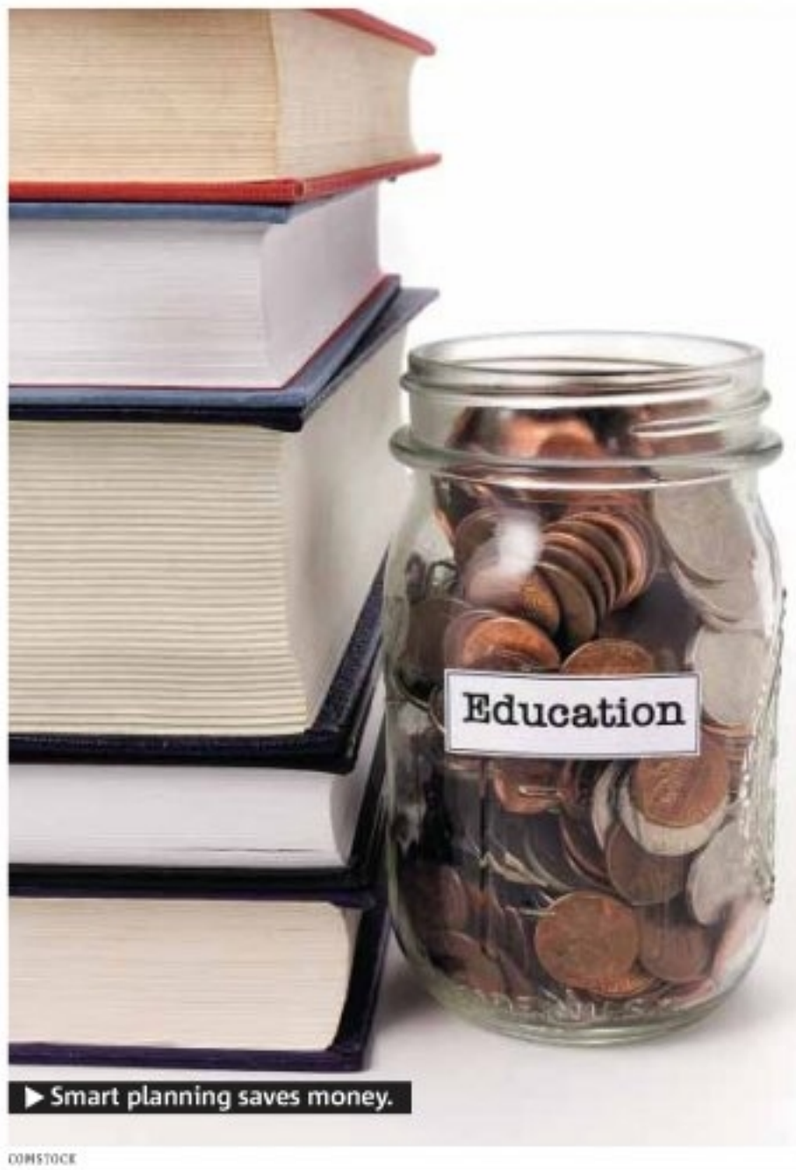
First step is finding out how many credits you already have Written-out plan from schools recommended

Your education is an investment in your future, so it makes sense to run the numbers before plunking down your hard-earned cash. If you had some college previously, one of those calculations is how many credits you'll need to get the degree you want.

"Not all schools will accept all your previous credits," explains Frank Congdon, executive director of continuing and professional studies at Philadelphia University. Some will only accept those classes that clearly correspond to a class in the school you want to transfer to; others will not accept credits for classes in your original major if you are planning a big change in direction.

In PhilaU's degree completion program, however, Congdon says, "We do everything in our power to accept the classes that applicants have already done," as long as the student made a C or better in those courses. The school requires that degree completion students have at least 30 credits, but they will accept up to 72, so someone could need as few as 48 credits to get a degree.

Congdon recommends that you talk to each of the schools you're considering and get a written plan for how many credits they'll accept and how many you'll need to graduate. You can then calculate how much it will cost to complete your degree at each of those schools.



▶ Smart planning saves money.

COMSTOCK

Is this the right school for you?

Another huge factor in picking a school is whether they have the program you need. "We're very oriented toward careers," Congdon says.

PhilaU offers bachelor's degrees in behavioral and health services, health services management, health sciences, human resource management, information technology, law enforcement leadership, leadership in emergency services, organizational leadership and pre-MBA.

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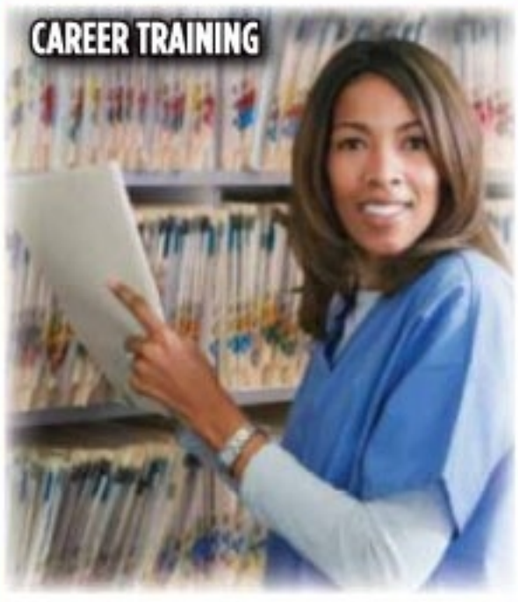

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education guide

STOCKBYTE

▶ Welcoming home military members from abroad includes providing education options.

Reporting for class, sir!

Thousands of military members returning home from Iraq will re-enter civilian life and college

With the impending end of the war in Iraq, thousands of members of the military will be returning to the States and re-entering civilian life. For many of these returning vets, their first priority will be resuming — or starting — their college education.

Temple University, for one, is ready for them. "We set up a committee two years ago to address the needs and concerns of these students," says Laura Reddick, associate director for adult and veteran student recruitment at Temple.

The committee brings together representatives from administrative offices like admissions and financial aid, as well as representatives of the various schools and academic departments in the university. "It's not just getting them admitted, it's helping them succeed, to continue through to graduation," Reddick explains. Her office helps by coordinating the university's efforts, but also by providing information on services beyond the university's mission. "As a university, we can't provide all services — just academics and some counseling," Reddick says. "So we have to be able to connect them to other services that are available," through the VA or the National Guard, for instance. Another important player is the Temple Veterans Association, a student group that holds networking events and job fairs as well as strictly social occasions.

Veterans enrolled at Temple has doubled in the last year, to 505 this fall.

JUDY WEIGHTMAN
letters@metro.us

WWW.METRO.US/EDUCATION

Quoted

"I'm just so pleased to be a part of this program; it's such a worthwhile initiative. I'm proud to help veterans transition into college, and from there into the work force, to help them reintegrate into society as citizens." LAURA REDDICK

Get details

There are special challenges to getting information to potential students in the military. "We were having monthly information sessions, but weren't reaching the personnel still on active duty," Reddick says. "So we added virtual information sessions as a way of them getting all the information they need."

These sessions have been "attended" by military personnel in Afghanistan, Korea, California, Arizona and elsewhere who aren't able to come in person. For more information about all of the services available to veterans, go to www.temple.edu/veterans. The next in-person information session will be at Temple University Center City on Jan. 11; there will be online sessions in January.

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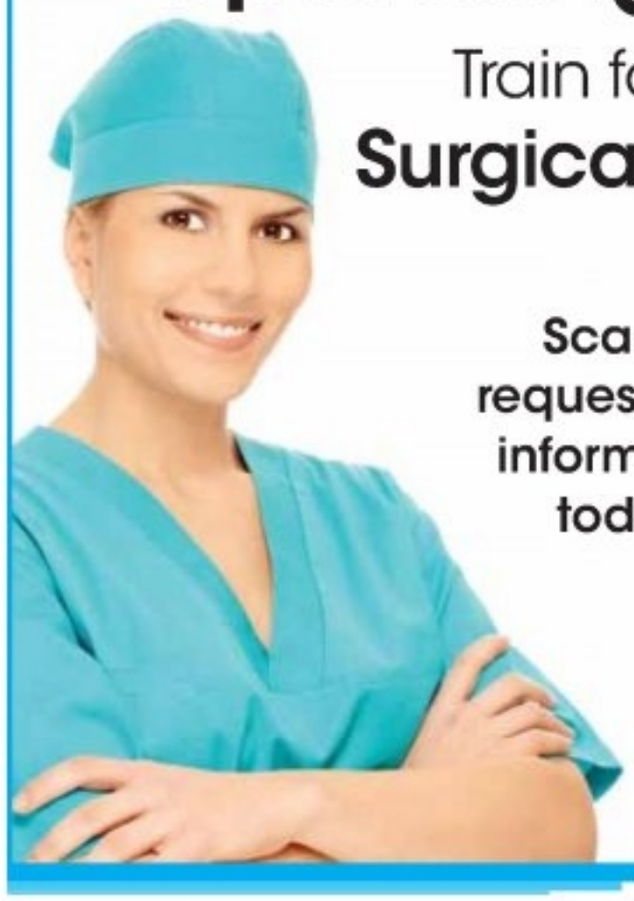

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education guide

PRISM PREPARES NURSES

Column

KEVIN QUINN

VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMISSIONS/MARKETING, PRISM EDUCATION GROUP

The brochure for ACW Health Care Inc. of Haddonfield, N.J., highlights "Direct Hands-on Leadership & Management Involvement with Each and Every Client."

Under the guidance of founder Anne C. Wells, ACW has been providing home health care services specializing in the care of catastrophically compromised individuals since 1992. Anne is a professional registered nurse with more than 30 years of experience. She started her medical career working in the emergency room at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Camden, N.J. — and now her company has grown to 50 employees.

When ACW needed to hire licensed practical nurses, Anne turned to Prism Career Institute's Cherry Hill campus for help. "I contacted the school's Career Services department and was impressed with the quality training the graduates received, the pass rate accomplished on state board licensing tests and their overall level of professionalism," Anne said. "The Career Services department at Prism is a great convenience, and they provide excellent follow-up with LPN candidates. ACW has now hired 12 Prism graduates and we'll continue to look for more as we grow."

Anne was so confident about Prism that she recommended the school to her son, John, who is expected to graduate from the practical nursing program.

Prism's practical nursing graduates Shannon Irwin, Marina Perry and Wilhelmina Alpha are among those hired by ACW. Each went through an extensive training orientation at ACW that prepared them to work with long-term injured patients. "Our orientation sets us apart from other providers," added Wells. "It takes a multidimensional person to be able to concentrate on long-term care, and it's especially rewarding for our employees."

The three graduates and Wells met on a recent afternoon at the home of an ACW patient. "I really enjoy helping people and making a difference in their daily lives," said Perry, regarding her work focusing on home health needs. "I love it, I can't imagine doing anything else."

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

More info

More information about Prism Career Institute campuses in Cherry Hill, Egg Harbor Township, Northeast Philadelphia and Upper Darby can be found at www.prismcareerinstitute.edu or by calling 800-571-1902.

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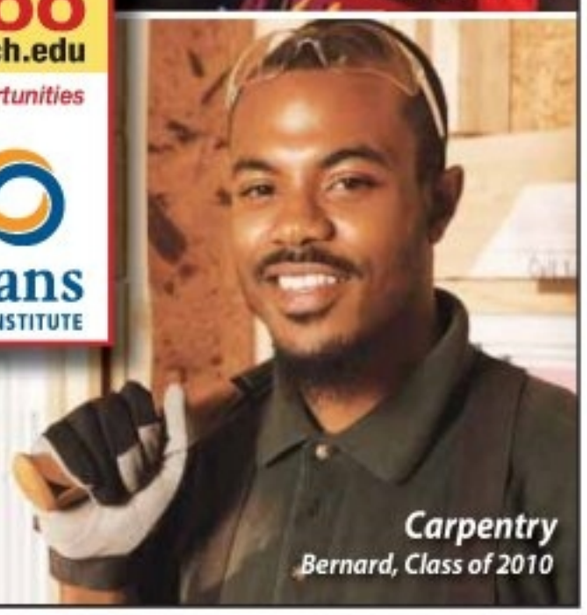
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destinations

Montreal: A getaway for every travel taste

You love your friends because each one has a unique personality But that makes planning group vacations nearly impossible For a weekend that appeals to the entire entourage, try this French Canadian destination

Montreal deals

Tourisme Montreal is offering 50 percent off your second night at more than 25 participating hotels, as well as a discount booklet for major attractions. Visit www.tourisme-montreal.org for full package details.

For the explorer
Get around via alternative transportation

Situated on the mountain in the middle of Montreal island, Mt. Royal Park doesn't just provide exercise getting to the top — the scenic green space offers excellent views, too. In winter, explore the park via skis or snowshoes; in the warmer months, take to the bike paths. Gain access to any of the 5,000-plus cruisers in the BIXI bike-share system for citywide sightseeing for just $5.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hike through the snow above the city in Mt. Royal Park.

For the fashionista
Score a fabulous find from a local designer

Montreal is fiercely proud of its homegrown designers. For the conscientious snow bunny, **Harricana (3000 rue Saint-Antoine Ouest, 514-287-6517)** is a dream come true: Designer Mariouche Gagne upcycles outdated fur fashions into classically cool new pieces.

For more secondhand finds, pop into the "friperies" in the trendy Plateau District (visit www.metro.us/travel for our picks).

For the culturephile
Eat your way through the city like a local

You could spend hours in Montreal's markets, sampling the local food and mingling with the people who grow and purchase it. Little Italy's **Jean-Talon Market (7070 Henri-Julien St., 514-937-7754)** is a year-round emporium of all things fresh — a true feast for the senses.

AMBER RAY
amber.ray@metro.us

New this winter: Snow Village

Montreal is home to North America's very first Snow Village, opening Jan. 6 in Jean-Drapeau Park. A city made entirely of ice and snow, this celebration of winter includes an ice hotel, restaurant, bar and chapel for some very white weddings (www.snowvillagecanada.com).

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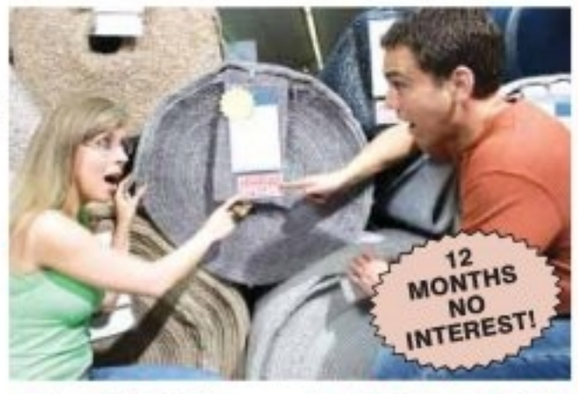

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Opinion

ANGELO CATALDI
THE VOICE OF THE PHILLY SPORTS FAN

MORAL WINS WORTHLESS IN DECEMBER

Moral Victory Tour 2011 is under way for the Eagles. Despite their 26-10 win, they will not make the playoffs, they will not redeem this lost season and they will not win back any fans with the charade that started in Miami.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send submissions to letters@metro.us.

But these Eagles will try. They always do. Surely you remember the last three games of 2007, when the Birds ran the table and then proclaimed their 8-8 record a success. The new game plan is to finish strong, blame injuries on the bad start and then bring back all of the same shopworn coaches.

What did we all learn about that scintillating victory on Sunday? Absolutely nothing. One excellent performance by the defense didn't suddenly transform Juan Castillo into Jim Johnson. One focused effort by DeSean Jackson didn't turn the pouting wide receiver into a mature adult. And, above all, one afternoon of triumph didn't make Andy Reid a good NFL coach again.

We have all seen this act before, and it is just so tired. When the Eagles can't undo their eight losses, they simply reboot expectations. Reid was starting this new spin cycle even before the Miami win when he blamed the team's failure on youth. He said they were "very, very young up the middle." At one point, he even used the word "rebuild."

Rebuild? In a season when the owner and president of the team said the Eagles were "all in"? In a season when Reid himself offered a public "thank you" to his bosses for providing such a bounty of new and experienced players in the free-agent frenzy that followed the lockout? Now this is a rebuilding year?

What the Eagles aren't counting on — and never do — is that the fans are too smart for this lame tactic. These people have waited 51 years for an NFL championship, and they know the difference between rhetoric and reality. They have heard every excuse, delivered in every imaginable way, over a half century of frustration.

Quoted

One afternoon triumph didn't make Andy Reid a good NFL coach.

They also know what's coming next: Another victory or two, more words of optimism about the future, and then the undeserved swagger of an organization that always sees itself as elite. Heck, if the wins start piling up in these meaningless games, owner Jeff Lurie or president Joe Banner might even emerge from hiding for a moment or two to savor their latest conquest.

Andy Reid took one step back from the abyss Sunday in Miami and, in so doing, we all took one step closer to another year of inept draft picks, blown timeouts and "gotta do a better jobs" after every loss.

So, yes, the Eagle won a moral victory, but the only cheers you heard were coming from the warped little world where the team resides.

*– **Angelo Cataldi** is the host of 610 WIP's Morning Show, which airs weekdays 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.*

As clear as Polanco's head

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Polanco

Lost in the hubbub over signing Jonathan Papelbon and the imminent return of Jimmy Rollins is the real story of the Phillies this offseason. The same offense that failed in the playoffs the last two years will be back, virtually intact, for yet another doomed attempt to win a title.

Have the Phils somehow forgotten that 1-0 loss to St. Louis? Do they actually believe they will win it all with a below-average leadoff hitter (Rollins), a powerless third baseman (Placido Polanco), a declining second baseman (Chase Utley) and an unproven left fielder (John Mayberry Jr.)?

The truth is, the Phillies will probably be even weaker offensively without Raul Ibanez and minus their one, genuine slugger for at least a month or two while Ryan Howard recovers from a torn Achilles. And please don't bring up new additions Jim Thome and Ty Wigginton, who will never be more than bench help.

The answer to the problem is as clear as Polanco's oversized head. The Phils need a new third baseman, someone who can provide more than the pathetic five homers and 50 RBIs that he wrung out of his 36-year-old body last season.

Ruben Amaro, Jr. has received much praise here and throughout the city in his three years as GM, and he has deserved it. But if he thinks the Phils can survive another season of bad offense, he will soon learn what it's like in Philadelphia when the honeymoon ends.

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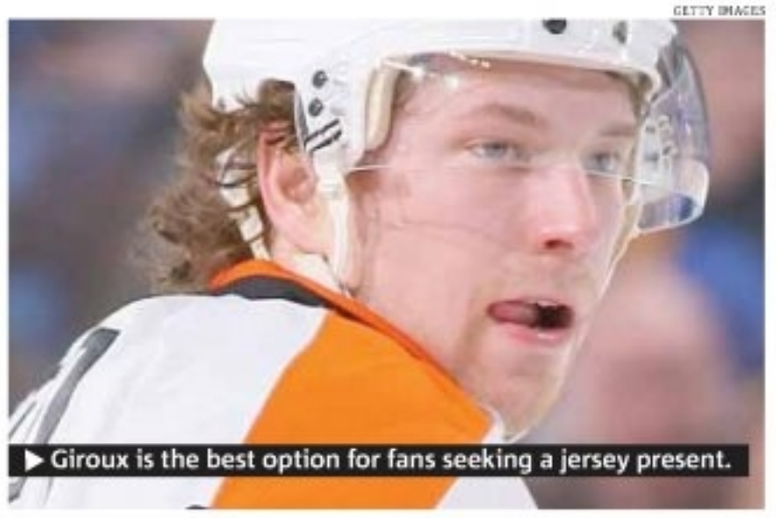

▶ Giroux is the best option for fans seeking a jersey present.

Santa's favorite jerseys

The shopping days are dwindling, and you still can't decide which sports jersey to buy your kids for Christmas? No problem.

The first step is to eliminate the jerseys that are no longer cool. So scratch Mike Vick, the No. 1 item from last year. He's always hurt, and has reverted to his mediocre Atlanta form. Forget Asante Samuel — too much attitude, not enough tackling. If you buy a DeSean Jackson jersey, buy it in infant size to match his personality. Really, the only Eagle worth your money is LeSean McCoy.

On the Phils, I'd drop Cliff Lee from the list; his meltdown in the division series is still too fresh. Chase Utley and Jimmy Rollins are in decline, Ryan Howard is hurt and the other starters aren't important enough. Two new players are good investments: Hunter Pence and Jonathan Papelbon. Or play it really safe and go with Roy Halladay.

Don't buy any Sixers jerseys. They haven't played in so long, no one even remembers who is on the team.

Now we've reached the best choice for a sports jersey this month. Claude Giroux of the Flyers has it all: youth, talent, personality. At 23, he's a top scorer in the NHL, and now that he's shaved that silly mustache, he's about as close to perfect as you can get in our sports city.

Idle thoughts from Cataldi ...

1 Stop whining. Casey Matthews was whining about Eagles fans again, saying they heckled his fiancee so much at a recent game, they made her cry. My best advice is not to wear a Casey Matthews jersey at the Linc. If you still like Matthews, it's a good idea to keep that to yourself.

2 Plain and simple. Forget about the bogus denial by NL MVP Ryan Braun. The test for performance-enhancing drugs isn't a matter of debate. He cheated and must be stripped of his award. If juicers are banned from the Hall of Fame, then one can't win an MVP, either. It's that simple.

3 Old man Pronger. Chris Pronger isn't aging gracefully. The Flyers captain, who was recovering from a knee problem after his eye injury, suffered a mysterious virus that has become a concussion. At this rate, the 36-year-old will be playing in the alumni game at the Winter Classic.

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Reid excited, NFC East still 'up for grabs'

Eagles coach updates team injuries ● Talks about possibility of winning division ● Ready to host NY Jets

The barrage of questions fired at Andy Reid yesterday made the coach noticeably uneasy.

Following a 26-10 win most of the topics addressed were negative ones. Why were so many passes batted down at the line of scrimmage? Was he disappointed in the offensive line's performance? Is he rushing players back from injuries too soon?

At one point, Reid had to make sure the Eagles had beaten the Dolphins.

"I'm pretty excited that we won the game, but this feels like we lost it here," Reid said. "I'm actually glad we won this game."

Not only did the Eagles get a much-needed win in Miami, but they also kept their slim playoff hopes alive. A prospect made even more possible after the Giants beat the Cowboys Sunday night. The Eagles need to win out, with Dallas and New York getting at least two more losses. So, yes, hope is alive.

"It's exciting, it's exciting," Reid said. "We've got three games left, and it's up for grabs. I'd say that's a good thing."

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Reid

Of course, there is a scenario where the Eagles could be eliminated before they even kickoff Sunday at 4:15 p.m. If the Giants and Cowboys — who both play early games — win, then the dream is over. But Reid isn't focusing on any of that right now.

"Listen, I'm excited about the opportunity that we have to play the New York Jets this weekend," Reid said. "That's where our focus is going to be, and we're going to try to continue to get better as a football team."

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

Bird seed

- **Todd Herremans** sprained his ankle Sunday. His status is up in the air.
- **Cullen Jenkins** has a strained groin and his status is up in the air.
- **Jeremy Maclin's** hamstring tightened up and he left Sunday's game early. He'll be monitored.
- **Steve Smith** has a bone bruise in his surgically repaired knee. He's now on IR, ending his season.

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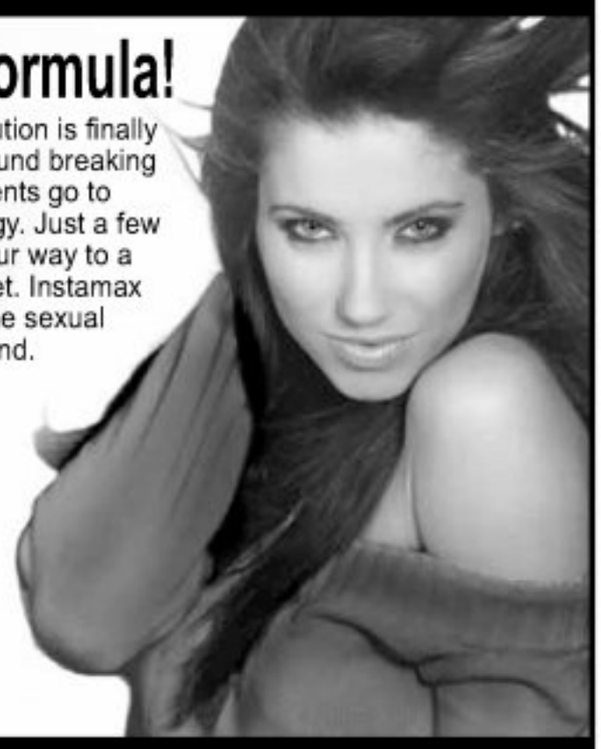

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Giroux better, but may miss two games

Claude Giroux is expected to miss two games following an inadvertent head injury over the weekend.

The NHL's leading scorer didn't travel with the Flyers to Washington, according to GM Paul Holmgren, as he continues to "feel better." Giroux was scheduled for concussion testing yesterday, but the results haven't been released.

Rookie Sean Couturier will take Giroux's spot on the Flyers' top line. METRO

Phillies send Francisco to Toronto for local kid

Ben Francisco was supposed to take Jayson Werth's starting spot. Now, a year removed from that failed experiment, he's got a new residence.

The Phillies traded Francisco yesterday to Toronto in exchange for pitching prospect Frank Gailey. The 26-year-old lefty is a Philadelphia native who attended Archbishop Carroll High School and West Chester University. Gailey, who was selected in the 23rd round of the 2007 draft, is 23-15 with a 2.45 ERA in 175 minor-league appearances.

▶ Francisco

By parting with Francisco, the Phillies shaved more than $1.175 million in salary. Francisco hit just .259 with 17 home runs in 225 games with the Phils. METRO

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